(c) IGNOU has informed that the University has been able to achieve annual physical targets.

(d) The establishment of Village Knowledge and Resource Centres has not been quantified as annual target during last three years including the current year.

Expert committee to examine fee structure

1754. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an expert committee to examine the fee structure in all schools, including private schools and higher educational institutions, including technical institutions, and recommend suitable and affordable fee structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The UGC has already constituted an Expert Committee headed by Prof. B.S. Sonde, former Vice-Chancellor, Goa University to frame regulations for admission and fee structure in Unviersities and other institutions, including Private self-financed Deemed Unviersities and colleges. However, there is no such proposal to set up an Expert Committee for CBSE affiliated schools as the Rules and affiliation rules CBSE mandate that the fees charged should be commensurate with the facilities provided the institution and no capitation fee or voluntary donations for gaining admission in the school should be charged.

Drop-out rate

1755. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the drop-out rates at V, VIII, X and XII stages, in the country/States, showing SC/ST boys/girls and Gross Enrolment Ratio of students in higher education;

(b) the findings of the study by the World Bank and Harvard University, 2004;

(c) whether there is some correlation between drop-out rates, teacher absenteeism, low pupil-teacher ratio, and untrained teachers; and

(d) whether the above scenario is alarming, and how it reflects on the performance of SSA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Details showing gender-wise drop-out rate of SC/ ST students in classes I-V, I-VIII & I-X and Gross Enorlment Ratio of students of higher education are given in Statement-I, II & III. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) The Study of World Bank and Harvard Unviersity, 2004 is on teacher absence in India and not on drop-outs. There are various socio-economic and school related factors that effect drop-out. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a national programme in which, *inter-alia*, one of the goals specify retention of all children of 6-14 years of age up to the elementary level by 2010.